

# Flower Auction, Holland

## Monitoring and Recording Materials Handling Vehicle Utilisation

### Using the Traka Immobilisor Data Logger

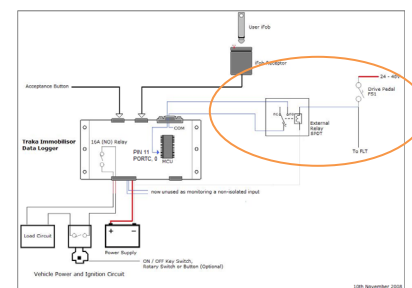
Many organisations require the ability to record more accurately the effective use of their towing and fork truck fleets in order to assist with service and maintenance scheduling. Time and money is often spent on servicing vehicles that do not actually warrant a service because their working hours have been minimal, perhaps sitting idle in a warehouse for long periods of time. Unlike the servicing of a car, where a service is carried out based upon the distance it has travelled, often MHE equipment is simply serviced at periodic intervals, e.g. every three months. This can be far from cost effective.



As an existing customer, the Flower Auction in Amsterdam, Holland, approached Traka because it was having precisely these issues. Excessive costs were being incurred in servicing vehicles that often didn't need it. Having already trialled Traka's key management solution on 10 vehicles for restricting access to only authorised personnel, it seemed a natural extension of the application. Using the 'iFob Per Person' application, Traka was already controlling precisely who had access to these vehicles, so it was possible to produce a utilisation report on the entire fleet showing how often each vehicle had been used. With such a report, the customer could schedule the servicing and maintenance of a vehicle based on utilisation instead of at fixed periodic intervals.

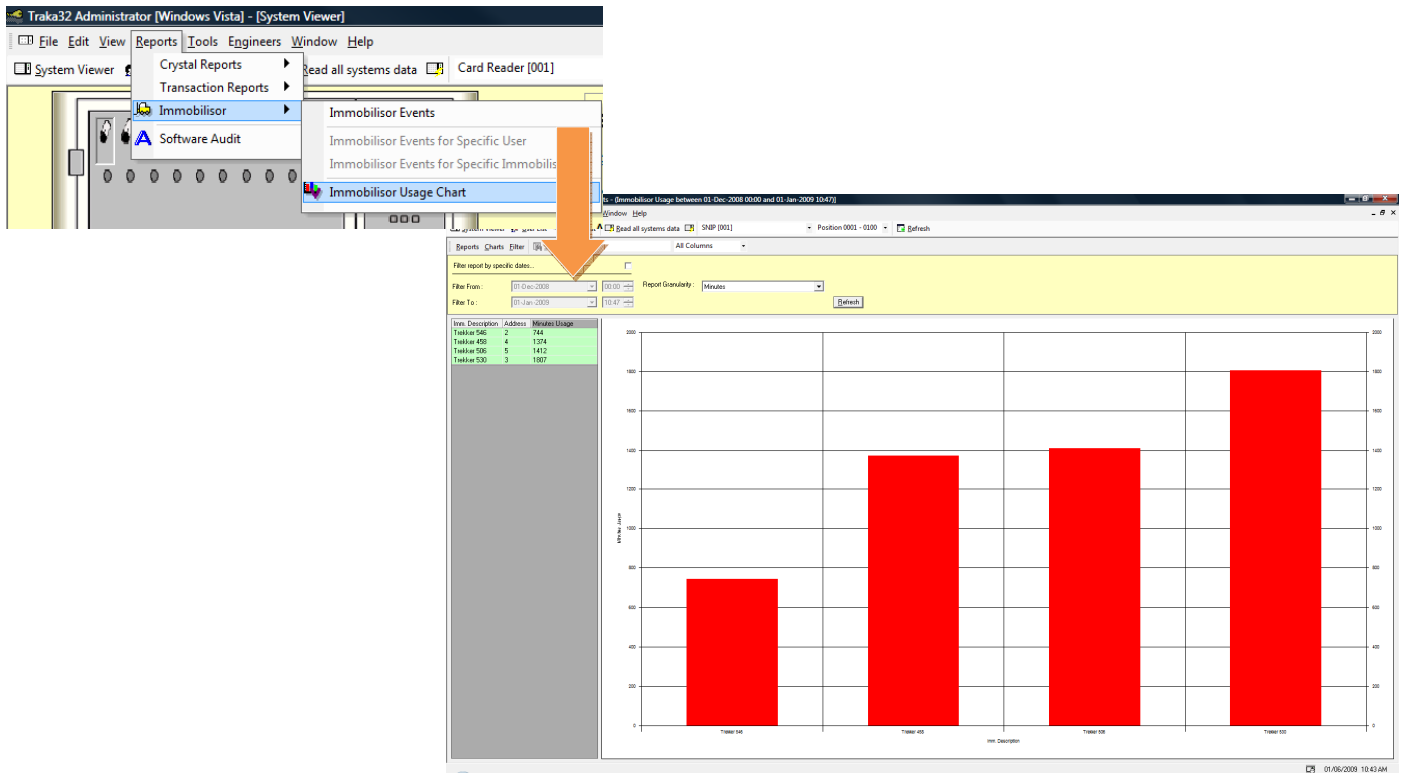
### Proposed Solution

Each vehicle at the Flower Auction is already fitted with a drive pedal that activates a micro-switch connected directly to the battery positive terminal. It was proposed that if the Traka Data Logger could detect when the pedal switch was depressed, it could accumulate the 'actual' drive minutes for the vehicle. The drive minutes would be collected by the User iFob as normal and this information would then provide a more accurate indication of each vehicle's utilisation. The Immobilisor Usage report in the unique Traka32 software would indicate the drive hours/minutes and the system administrator would then use this report to determine which vehicles require servicing. It was agreed that, initially, Traka would provide Data Loggers for trial on three trucks.



## Immobilisor Usage Chart

The Immobilisor usage chart displays the total number of drive hours/minutes recorded for each vehicle. This is the report the system administrator will use to identify when a vehicle reaches a pre-determined number of working hours, at which point it will be sent for service.



## Results to date

Early indications are that the trial is progressing well and the client is already planning to install the system on a further five trucks to extend the amount of test data collected. Whilst it is too early to project exactly how much cost saving this solution will achieve, there is also potential to save money on unnecessary manpower, administration and operational downtime – all factors that contribute directly to productivity and competitive advantage. Furthermore, ongoing development of the system is likely to result in the introduction of additional features including automatic notification when a vehicle reaches its pre-determined number of working hours.

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